STAR WARS
DARTH VADER
MARVEL
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THE DYING LIGHT

Part I

The fledgling Empire has only just begun across the galaxy. As Emperor Palpatine firms up his grip on the reins of rulership, it falls to those under him to make sure the transition goes smoothly.

Lord Darth Vader, Palpatine's Sith apprentice, struggles to come into his own in this new Empire. Formerly a Jedi Knight known as Anakin Skywalker, Vader betrayed the Jedi Order and took the lead in their slaughter.

Now, Vader has been put in charge of the Inquisitorius, a group of former Jedi fallen to the dark side. Their mission: continue what Vader began and wipe out the remaining Jedi who have thus far evaded capture....

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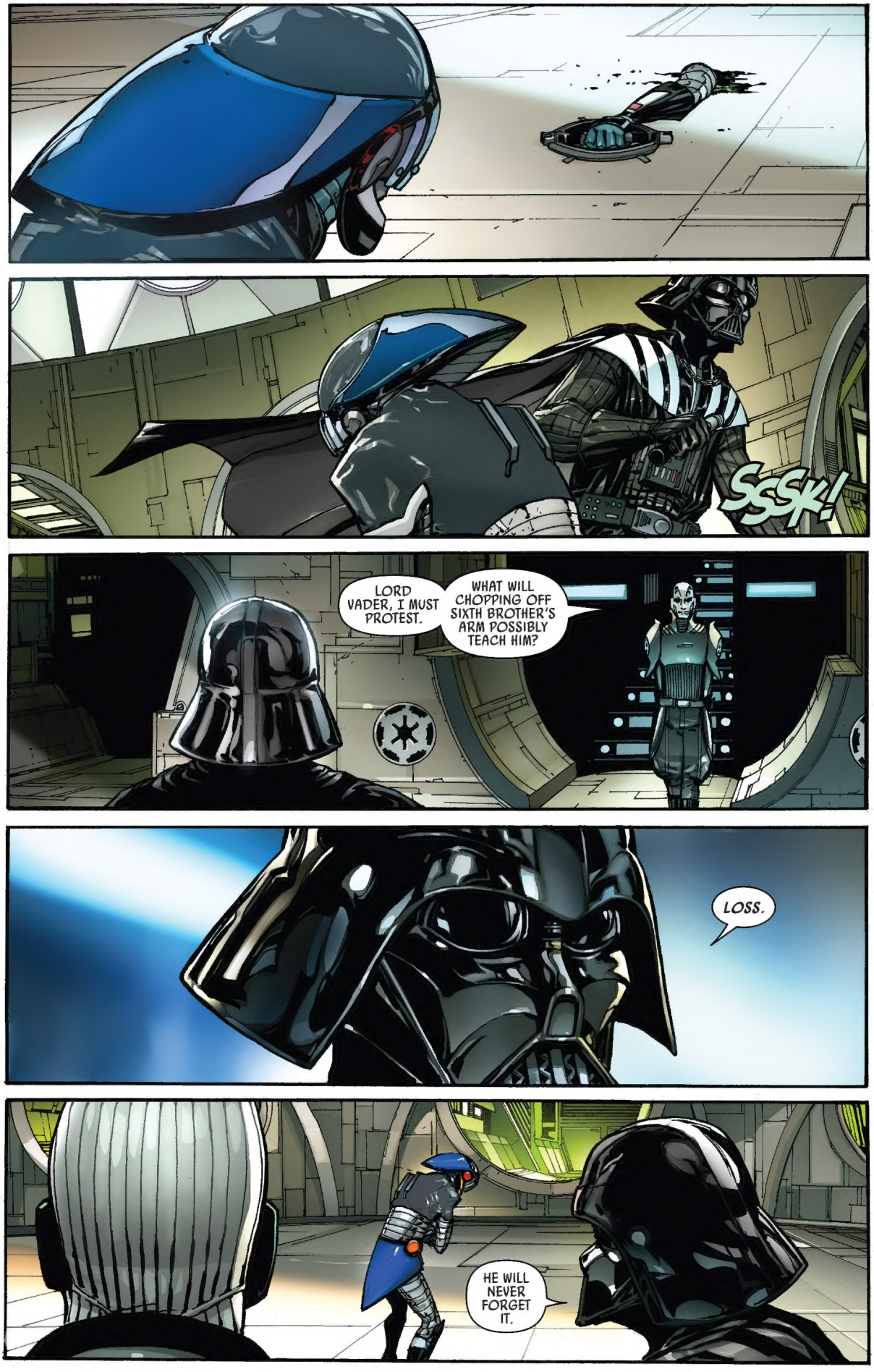
Coruscant. The Works District.
IT'S ONLY AN ARM.
GET UP AND FIGHT.


SSSK!
LORD VADER, I MUST PROTEST.
WHAT WILL CHOPPING OFF SIXTH BROTHER'S ARM POSSIBLY TEACH HIM?
LOSS.
HE WILL NEVER FORGET IT.

NONE OF THEM WILL.
THE EMPEROR CREATED THE INQUISITORIUS PROGRAM TO HUNT DOWN AND KILL ANY JEDI WHO ESCAPED HIS PURGE.
YOUR PEOPLE ARE NOT READY, GRAND INQUISITOR.
THAT IS HARDLY FAIR, VADER. THE INQUISITORS ARE FORMIDABLE FIGHTERS. THEY ARE FORMER JEDI!
AND THEY FIGHT LIKE IT. DEFENSIVE. MOVING TO ATTACK ONLY WHEN THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE.
THE JEDI TAUGHT THAT A BATTLE COULD BE COUNTED A VICTORY EVEN IF BOTH PARTIES SURVIVE.
THIS ERROR HAS INFECTED THE INQUISITORS' TACTICS.
ALL OF THEM.

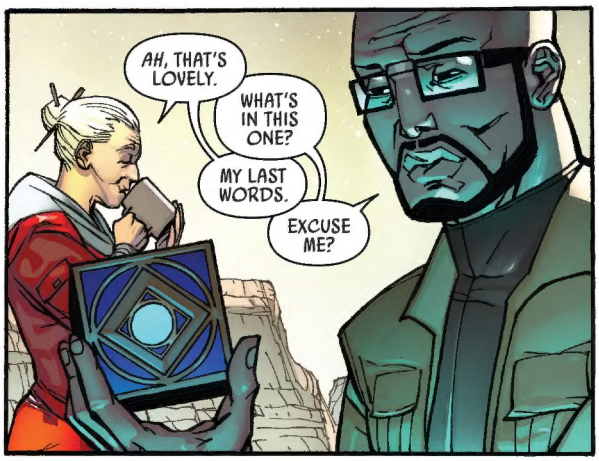
YOU DO KNOW THE EMPEROR PERSONALLY SELECTED ME, VADER? RAISED ME UP. GAVE ME THIS POSITION.
HE BELIEVES IN MY ABILITY.
CONCERN YOURSELF WITH MY BELIEFS, GRAND INQUISITOR.
I WILL INSTRUCT YOU. YOU WILL BRING MY LESSONS TO THE OTHERS.
ANY INQUISITOR WHO DOES NOT PROGRESS WILL BE ELIMINATED.
ANY. I SEE.
YOU FIND US PATHETIC. YOU THINK YOU COULD DO THE JOB BETTER YOURSELF. THAT MAY BE TRUE. YOU ARE MIGHTY INDEED.
BUT IF THAT WAS WHAT THE EMPEROR WANTED, WOULDN'T YOU BE DOING IT?
YOU SAID THE INQUISITORS ARE MINE. NO LONGER, VADER. NO LONGER.
THE EMPEROR HAS GIVEN US TO YOU. YOU OWN US, FLAWS AND ALL. IF WE SUCCEED, IT IS TO YOUR CREDIT. AND IF WE FAIL...
...YOU WILL OWN THAT AS WELL.
YOU ARE CORRECT, GRAND INQUISITOR. I DO FIND YOU PATHETIC.
BUT I BELIEVE IN CHANGE.
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE FORCE.

WE WILL BEGIN BY HUNTING THOSE JEDI WHO MAY HAVE SURVIVED ORDER 66. A TARGET LIST.
BUT...
...THE EMPEROR HAS ALREADY GIVEN ME SUCH A LIST.
PRIORITY TARGETS AMONG THE PRESUMED JEDI SURVIVORS.
YOU HAVE HAD THIS LIST... FOR SOME TIME?
YES. AND THIS ONE-- JOCASTA NU. SHE IS GIVEN EXTRA EMPHASIS, BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHY.
I AM ALL FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE JEDI, BUT I'D HAVE THOUGHT WE WOULD START WITH A MORE DANGEROUS TARGET.
FRANKLY, I AM SURPRISED SHE SURVIVED THE PURGE. WHY, I DON'T THINK I SAW HER FIGHT ONCE, NOT IN ALL THE YEARS I--
IT IS NOT YOUR PLACE TO QUESTION.
IF THE EMPEROR WISHES HER DESTROYED...

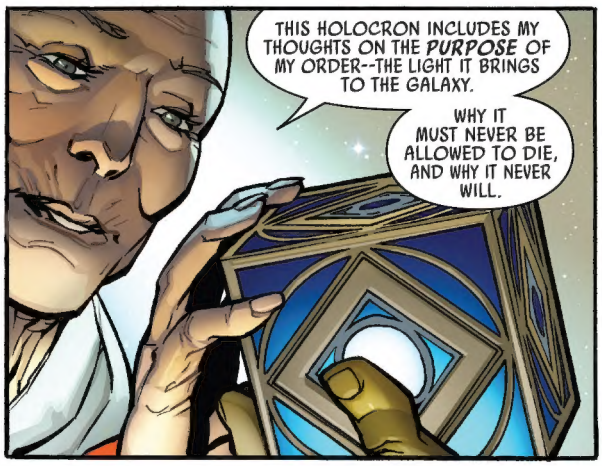
"...I WILL SEE IT DONE."
WHOEVER IS SEEING THIS... IT'S UP TO YOU NOW.
DON'T LET OUR DEATHS HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.
WHOEVER IS SEEING THIS... IT'S UP TO YOU NOW.
DON'T LET OUR DEATHS HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.

ARE YOU FINISHED, JOCASTA?
YES. ONE MORE HOLOCRON, COMPLETE.
IS THAT TEA?
YES. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE TIRED.

GAR, YOU'RE A MARVEL.

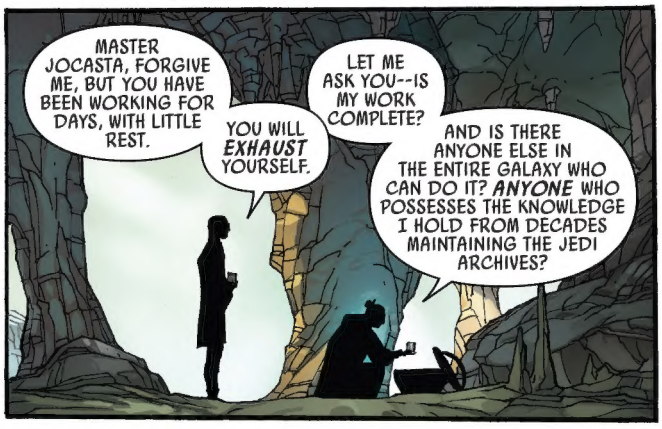

AH, THAT'S LOVELY.
WHAT'S IN THIS ONE?
MY LAST WORDS.
EXCUSE ME?

MY LIGHT DIMS. WHAT THE SITH COULDN'T DO, TIME MOST CERTAINLY WILL.
NOT ALL JEDI ARE BLESSED WITH THE LIFE SPAN OF MASTER YODA.


THIS HOLOCRON INCLUDES MY THOUGHTS ON THE *PURPOSE* OF MY ORDER--THE LIGHT IT BRINGS TO THE GALAXY.
WHY IT MUST NEVER BE ALLOWED TO DIE, AND WHY IT NEVER WILL.

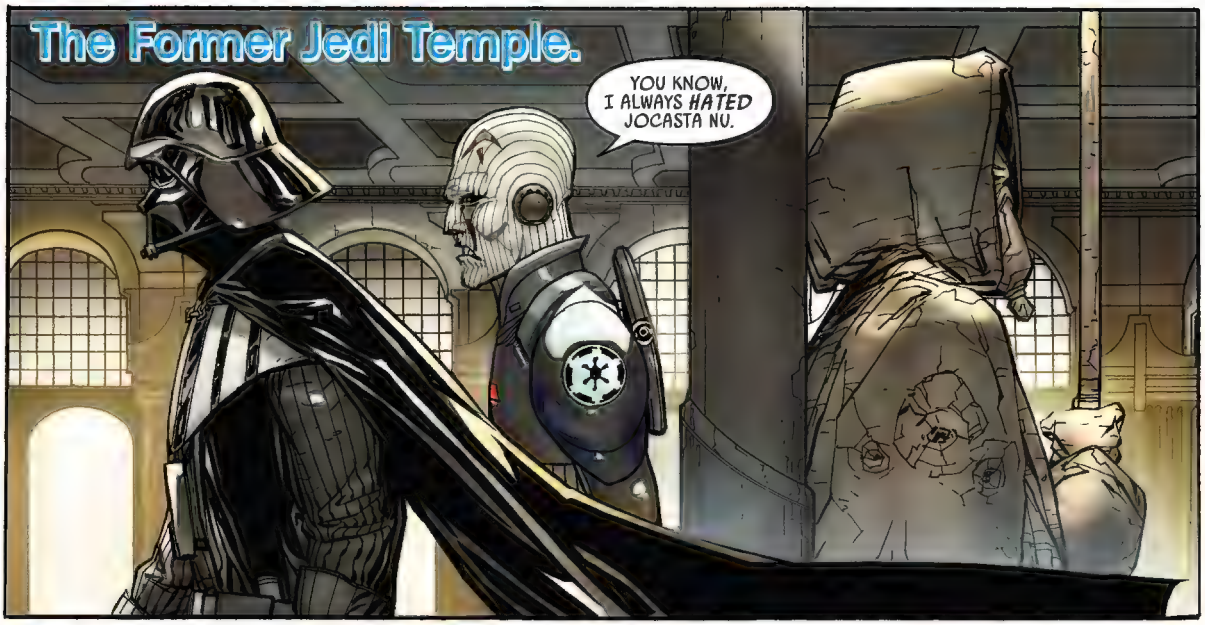
PLEASE PUT IT WITH THE OTHERS.
YOU AREN'T COMING? I THOUGHT PERHAPS...
OH NO, MY FRIEND.

I HAVE MORE WORK TO DO.

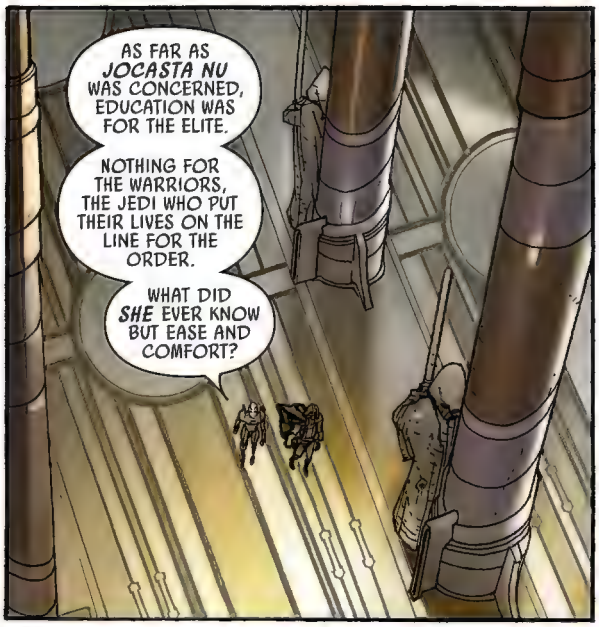

MASTER JOCASTA, FORGIVE ME, BUT YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR DAYS, WITH LITTLE REST.
YOU WILL *EXHAUST* YOURSELF.
LET ME ASK YOU--IS MY WORK COMPLETE?
AND IS THERE ANYONE ELSE IN THE ENTIRE GALAXY WHO CAN DO IT? *ANYONE* WHO POSSESSES THE KNOWLEDGE I HOLD FROM DECADES MAINTAINING THE JEDI ARCHIVES?

WELL, NO, I SUPPOSE NOT, BUT...

IF MY WORK IS NOT COMPLETE, THEN I MUST WORK.
BUT I WOULDN'T SAY NO TO A BIT MORE TEA.


The Former Jedi Temple.
YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS HATED JOCASTA NU.

SHE LOOKED DOWN ON ME. I COULD TELL. NEVER GAVE ME FULL ACCESS TO THE ARCHIVES, ALWAYS HOVERED WHEN SHE DID LET ME READ A DATAFILE OR TWO.
SHE SORTED US INTO CATEGORIES IN HER HEAD--YOU COULD SEE IT. THOSE FEW WHO WERE WORTHY TO LEARN THE DEEP MYSTERIES OF THE FORCE, AND... THE REST OF US.


AS FAR AS JOCASTA NU WAS CONCERNED, EDUCATION WAS FOR THE ELITE.
NOTHING FOR THE WARRIORS, THE JEDI WHO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR THE ORDER.
WHAT DID SHE EVER KNOW BUT EASE AND COMFORT?

I CAN'T WAIT TO KILL HER.

AND THEN...

The Archives.

...I'M GOING TO READ EVERY BLASTED THING IN THIS PLACE.

MMF!

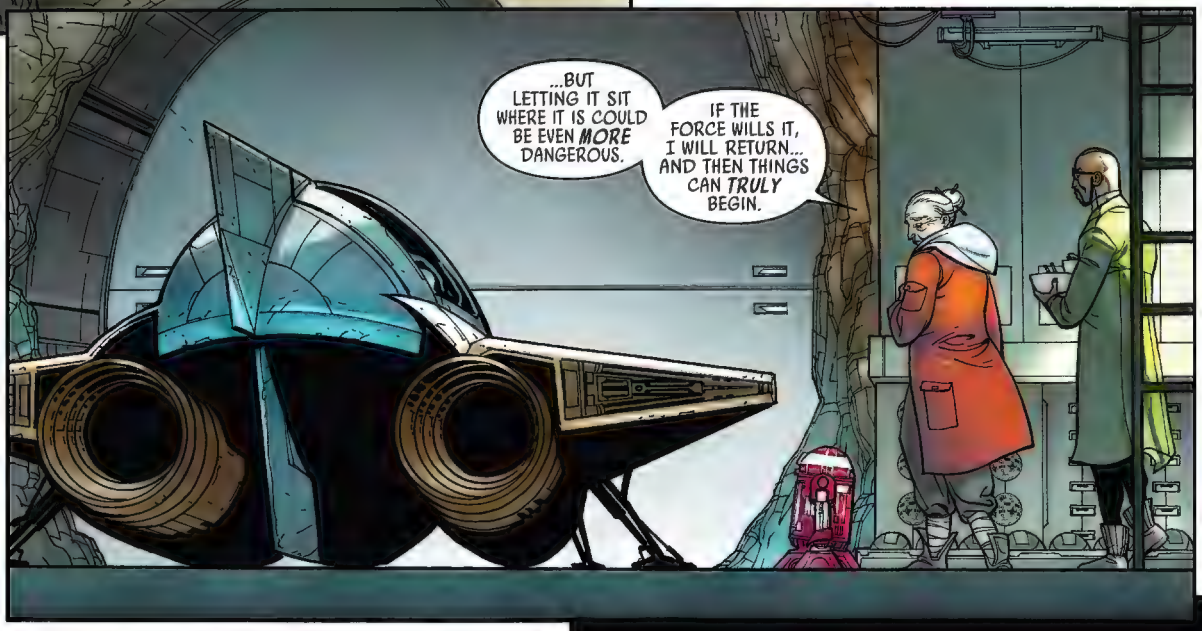
DONE.

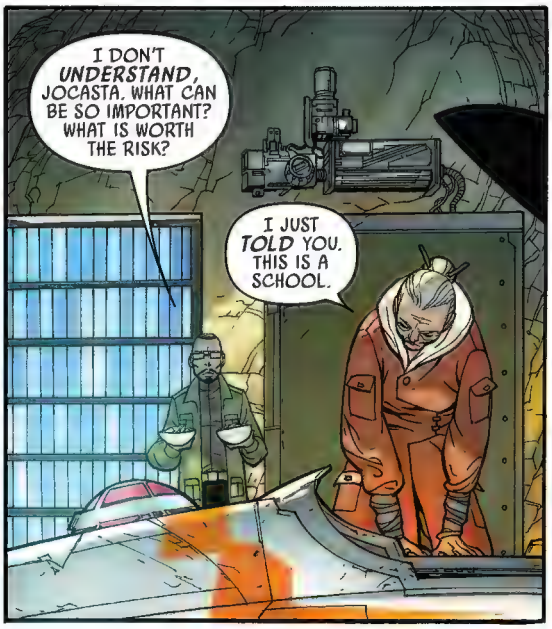
GOOD. I'M GLAD.

I'VE BUILT A SCHOOL.

I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW. THERE'S SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT I HAVE TO GET.

IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO RETRIEVE...


...BUT LETTING IT SIT WHERE IT IS COULD BE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS.
IF THE FORCE WILLS IT, I WILL RETURN... AND THEN THINGS CAN TRULY BEGIN.


I DON'T UNDERSTAND, JOCASTA. WHAT CAN BE SO IMPORTANT? WHAT IS WORTH THE RISK?
I JUST TOLD YOU. THIS IS A SCHOOL.

A SCHOOL NEEDS STUDENTS.

LORD VADER.
REPORT.
THE INQUISITORS REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTION, BUT I HAVE IMPLEMENTED A PROGRAM OF AGGRESSIVE TRAINING.
THEY WILL LEARN, AND THEY WILL SERVE YOUR PURPOSE.
I HAVE NO DOUBT OF IT, MY APPRENTICE. YOU WILL NEVER FAIL ME.
RISE, AND LET US SPEAK OF OTHER THINGS.
YES, MASTER. BUT FIRST, A QUESTION.
...PROCEED.
I HAVE SEEN THE INQUISITORS' TARGET LIST. ONE NAME DISTINCT FROM THE OTHERS.
CLEARLY YOU WISHED ME TO ASK YOU ABOUT IT.
AND SO, I ASK. OF ALL THE REMAINING JEDI...

"...WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT ABOUT JOCASTA NU?"
STAY WITH THE SHIP, BEETOO. I WILL RETURN AS SOON AS I CAN. IF YOU ARE DISCOVERED HERE... YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I HOPE IT DOES NOT COME TO THAT--BUT THE SITUATION IS DIRE. THERE IS NO CHOICE.
BLERP.
HELLO, OLD FRIEND. YOU THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER SEE ME AGAIN, EH?
BUT OUR WORK TOGETHER MAY NOT YET BE COMPLETE.
AND SO, WE MUST CARRY ON.

AH, YES. JOCASTA NU. FORMER LEAD ARCHIVIST FOR THE ORDER.
SHE IS ANCIENT. MIDDLING IN THE FORCE, BARELY COMPETENT WITH A LIGHTSABER.
AND YET, THAT CRONE COULD END EVERYTHING WE ARE TRYING TO DO. FOR YOU SEE...

"...JOCASTA NU KNOWS EVERYTHING."

THE JEDI ORDER HELD POWER IN THE REPUBLIC FOR FAR TOO LONG. THEY ABUSED THAT POWER.
THEY LAID CLAIM TO EVERY SITE OF INTEREST TO THE FORCE ACROSS THE ENTIRE GALAXY.
SHRINES, WELLS OF ENERGY, ANCIENT TEMPLES...THEY TOOK THEM. BELIEVED THEY WERE THEIRS BY RIGHT.

JEDI HUBRIS. SO PREDICTABLE.
SO USEFUL.

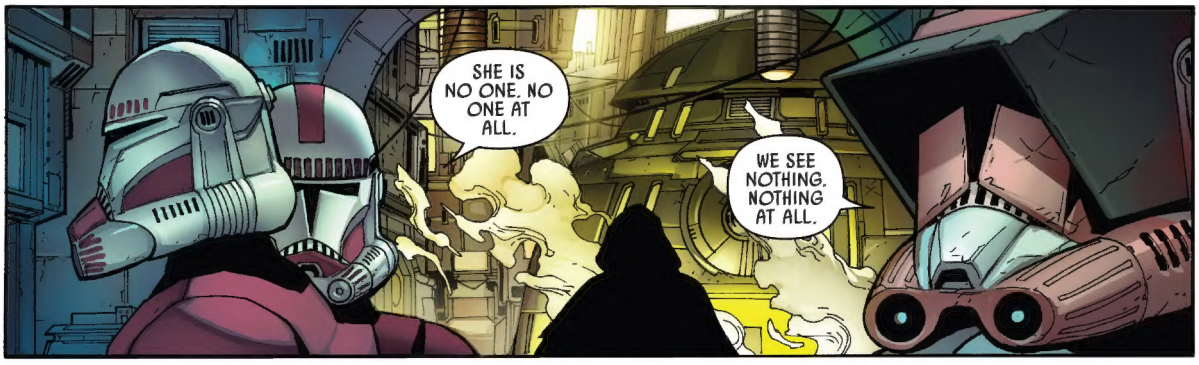
BLAST.
"THE JEDI PLUNDERED THESE SITES, TOOK EVERYTHING OF VALUE FROM THEM, AND BROUGHT THE ITEMS HERE, TO CORUSCANT."

AND THEN THEY GAVE THEM TO JOCASTA NU TO GUARD.

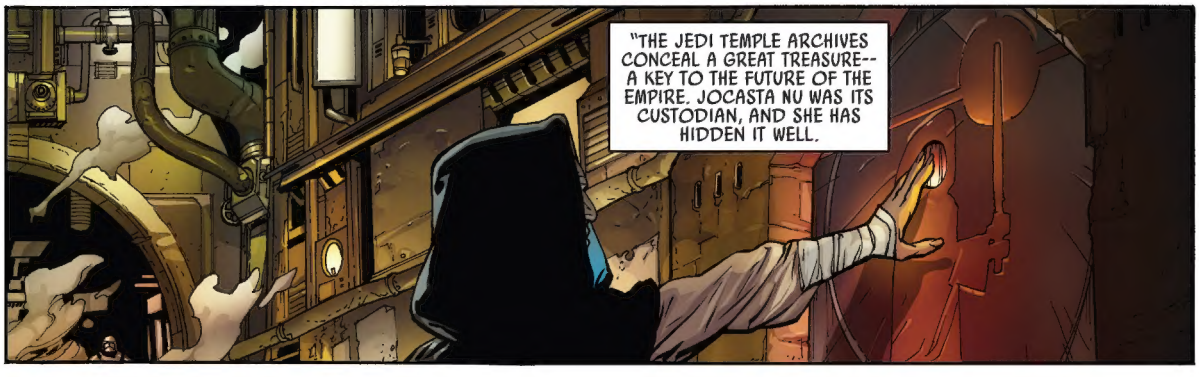
"NOT JUST SECRETS OF THE LIGHT SIDE OF THE FORCE. THE DARK SIDE, AS WELL.
"SECRETS THAT WERE NOT THEIRS TO KEEP. SECRETS EVEN OF THE ANCIENT SITH.

"JOCASTA KNOWS THEM ALL.
STOP THERE, CITIZEN. IDENTIFY YOURSELF.
ME?

"SHE IS LITTLE BETTER THAN A WITCH."
I'M NO ONE. NO ONE AT ALL.
YOU SEE NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.


SHE IS NO ONE. NO ONE AT ALL.
WE SEE NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.

I UNDERSTAND, MY MASTER. I WILL SEE TO HER DEATH PERSONALLY.
AH...YES. I SENSE YOUR EAGERNESS. THE IDEA OF HUNTING ANOTHER JEDI, EVEN ONE SO FEEBLE AS JOCASTA... IT CALLS TO YOU. YOU NEED IT.
BUT YOU WILL SET THESE DESIRES ASIDE.


"THE JEDI TEMPLE ARCHIVES CONCEAL A GREAT TREASURE--A KEY TO THE FUTURE OF THE EMPIRE. JOCASTA NU WAS ITS CUSTODIAN, AND SHE HAS HIDDEN IT WELL.

SSSK!
"I REQUIRE THIS TREASURE. YOU WILL FIND JOCASTA NU, YOU WILL BRING HER TO ME, AND SHE WILL TELL ME WHAT I WISH TO KNOW."

YOU DID NOT TELL THIS TO THE INQUISITORS.
OF COURSE NOT! THERE IS RISK IN JOCASTA FALLING INTO ANY HANDS BUT OURS. HER KNOWLEDGE COULD EASILY BE USED AGAINST US.
THE GRAND INQUISITOR AND THE REST SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE WOMAN--THEY CAN HELP YOU FIND HER, IF YOU WISH--BUT THEY NEED NOT KNOW HER IMPORTANCE.
THE INQUISITORS WILL BE USEFUL, BUT THEY ARE NOT SITH.

"ALL JEDI WERE ARROGANT, AND JOCASTA NU MORE THAN MOST. THIS IS WHY THEY LOST--BUT IT ALSO PRESENTS A PROBLEM.
"UNDOUBTEDLY, THE WOMAN ALREADY PLOTS SOME SELF-RIGHTEOUS SCHEME TO CHANGE THE DESTINY OF THE GALAXY."
IT IS TOO LATE FOR SUCH THINGS, OF COURSE. BUT SHE WILL NOT SEE THAT.
INEVITABLY, SHE WILL MAKE SOME GRAND, FOOLISH GESTURE THAT WILL END IN HER CAPTURE OR DEATH. NEITHER CAN BE ALLOWED. SHE MUST BE OURS.
"VADER, MY FRIEND, IT IS UP TO YOU NOW. YOU MUST FIND JOCASTA NU...
"...AND YOU MUST SAVE HER LIFE."

DARTH VADER
NEXT ISSUE: